

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-17, 19-21, 23-28 and 36-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17 and 19-21 are allowed. Claims 23-28 and 36-44 are rejected. With this Amendment, please cancel claims 23-28 and 36-44 without prejudice. Please also cancel previously withdrawn claims 18 and 29-35.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 23-28 and 36-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ingle et al. ("Ingle"), U.S. Patent Nos. 6,091,995 and 6,216,704. In order to advance prosecution, please cancel claims 23-28 and 36-44 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims, as well as previously withdrawn claims 18 and 29-35, in a continuation and/or divisional application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. With the cancellation of claims 23-28 and 36-44, Applicants now believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that a teleconference would be of further value in expediting the allowance of the pending claims, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number listed below. The present response is being filed within the three-month statutory period for response (on or before September 5, 2007), and no fee or petition for an extension is due. If, however, it is believed that any additional fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any such fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Reference #687-3101/US).

Dated: 8/2/07 Respectfully submitted,

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